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east timor news agency
agência de notícias de timor leste
ETNA

Robert Davis
editor

EAST TIMOR NEWS AGENCY - ETNA

APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

head office and asia-pacific bureau
mailing address: po box 624 newport beach nsw 2106 australia telephone: (+612) 973 1706 fax: (+612) 973 1706

APPLICATION FOR FUNDING - EAST TIMOR NEWS AGENCY (ETNA)

BACKGROUND

ETNA was established in Dili in October 1975 by Jose Ramos-Horta and Roger East, an Australian freelance journalist.

It was set up with the aim of presenting to the world a clear picture of what was really happening inside East Timor, thus helping to correct the distorted view being promoted by the Indonesian news agency ANTARA.

ETNA's first item was an interview with six Timorese soldiers who had witnessed the fall of Balibo and the killing of five Australian newsmen by Indonesian troops. The story was carried on the front pages of most Australian newspapers and ETNA began to be quoted.

When Roger East himself was murdered by an Indonesian soldier on the first day of the invasion, the voice of ETNA was temporarily silenced.

CURRENT SITUATION

ETNA has been revived by Jose Ramos-Horta and the agency's name recently has begun to appear again in newspapers and magazines in Portugal.

Interest has been expressed in the work of ETNA and an agreement has been reached with the largest Portuguese daily newspaper, 'Diario de Noticias', in Lisbon, to supply stories. In addition, the influential and most prestigious Portuguese weekly 'Expresso' has asked ETNA to cover general stories on Asia and the Pacific on a regular basis.

Plans are under way as well to contact LUSA and other Portuguese language news services and newspapers in Macao, Portuguese-speaking Africa and Brazil to offer similar representation in the region.

THE FUTURE

The aims of ETNA'S principals are that the agency:

1. Continue to provide news from within, or of relevance to, East Timor to existing and future clients.

2. Expand to cover Asia and the Pacific for publications and other agencies which do not have representation in the region.

3. Offer full services (background reports, current briefings, analysis, etc.) to non-government organisations throughout the world on a subscription basis.

4. Achieve self-sufficiency in three years by following the above strategy.

STAFFING

Initially ETNA will have a staff of two:

Director (part-time).....Jose Ramos-Horta

News Editor (full-time).....Robert Davis

ETNA already has three correspondents in Indonesia and East Timor who will be paid according to contributions. For security reasons, of course, their work must appear on an anonymous basis.

BUDGET ($ Australian)

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Salaries:				
Director (part-time) @ $300 per week	15,600	15,600	15,600	46,800
News Editor (full-time) @ $500 per week	26,000	26,000	26,000	78,000
Correspondents (estimate only)	3,600	3,600	3,600	10,800
Equipment:*				
Computer and printer	3,500	-	-	3,500
Facsimile machine	1,300	-	-	1,300
Telephone	240	-	-	240
Answering machine	200	-	-	200
Running costs (estimate):				
Rental of line for telephone and fax	286	286	286	858
Telephone calls	2,400	2,400	2,400	7,200
Fax transmissions	360	360	360	1,080
Postage	500	500	500	1,500
Post office box rental	30	30	30	90
Printing	400	100	100	600
Stationery	200	200	200	600
Electricity	400	400	400	1,200
Total	55,016	49,476	49,476	153,968

* Figures represent cost of new equipment but savings may be possible by purchasing second-hand.